

REMARKS

Amendment to Specification

The Specification has been amended at page 1 to update the Related Application Information, as requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-9, 17-38 and 46-92, as previously noted, presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and/or 103 as allegedly unpatentable over various items. Without acquiescence in the grounds of the rejection or prejudice to pursue at a later time, Applicant herein has amended independent claims 1 and 30 to incorporate the subject matter of allowed dependent claims 10 and 39, respectively, and the intervening dependent claims (i.e., claims 3 and 32, respectively), which have accordingly been canceled. Moreover, independent claims 59 and 76 have been amended to incorporate similar subject matter as allowed claims 10 and 39, respectively, and should thus be allowable for similar reasons. Claims 61 and 78 have likewise been incorporated into independent claims 59 and 76, and have thus been canceled.

Claims 4-6, 9, 11-15, 33-35, 40-44, 62-64, 67, 79-81, and 84 have been amended to change their dependency in view of the various claim cancellations. Claims 50, 86, and 88 have been amended to clarify antecedent basis, and claim 74 has been amended to correct a clerical error.

It is therefore believed that all of the currently pending claims are in condition for final allowance.

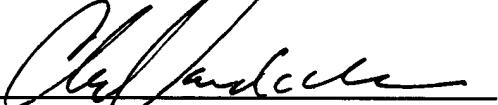
Request for Allowance

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application stands in condition for final allowance, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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